Abstract of the Disclosure

An instrument for testing a CATV network includes an input port for receiving first information from the network, a computer coupled to the input port for processing the first information received from the network, a user interface permitting a user to create second information for communication over the network, and a serial port for coupling the second information to the network. The instrument also includes a signature pad permitting a user to enter handwritten communication for transmission over the network, and a port for coupling handwritten communication-related signals to the network. The instrument also includes an ethernet interface for coupling the second information to the network.